

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652 : NA

TAGS : PFOR, OAU, AO, NI

SUBJ : GARBA RESTATES NIGERIAN POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE FROM "SUNDAY OBSERVER" NOVEMBER 23 REPORTING MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA'S EXPLANATION OF FMG POLICY ON ANGOLA DELIVERED AT UNIVERSITY LAGOS AT LAUNCHING "NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES" NOVEMBER 21.

2. QTE THE FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, COL. J.N. GARBA HAS STRONGLY DEFENDED THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AGAINST CRITICISMS BY INTELLECTUALS IN ITS HANDLING OF THE ANGOLAN ISSUE.

SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE "NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES" IN LAGOS LAST FRIDAY, THE COMMISSIONER DESCRIBED MOST OF THE CRITICISMS AS BEING "UNFAIR AND AT TIMES UNREALISTIC." COL. GARBA DESCRIBED THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM AS "HYDRA HEADED" AND POINTED OUT THAT THE SOLUTION TO ONE DOES NOT NECESSARILY UNCLASSIFIED

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GUARANTEE THE SOLUTION OF THE OTHERS.

THE COMMISSIONER EXPLAINED THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S VIEW HAD ALWAYS BEEN THAT UNTIL PORTUGAL ACTUALLY GRANTED INDEPENDENCE TO THE TERRITORY, "IT ALONE HAD THE JURIDICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SETTLING THE FRATICIDAL CONFLICT." OYLCOL. GARBA STATED THAT NEVERTHELESS, NIGERIAN SUPPORTED BEHIND THE SCENES EFFORTS BY THE OAU TO UNITE THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS OF MPLA, UNITA AND THE FNLA.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCCESS IN THIS SETTLEMENT ENDEAVOR DEPENDED ON THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO CO-OPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND AMICABLY SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES AS WELL AS COMPLETE UNACIMITY AND CONSENSUS WITHIN THE OAU (SIC).

COL. GARBA SAID THAT THE PARTIES IN ANGOLA HAVE REFUSED IN SPITE OF DEDICATED EFFORTS BY THE OAU IN WHICH NIGERIA HAD BEEN VERY MUCH INVOLVED "TO BURY THEIR DIFFERENCES AND ASSUME JOINT LEADERSHIP OF THEIR COUNTRY."

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, THE CONSENSUS WITHIN THE OAU HAD BROKEN DOWN AS A FEW OF ITS MEMBERS HAD LENT THEIR SUPPORT TO ONE FACTION OR THE OTHER.

COL. GARBA ADDED: "NIGERIA PREFERS TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE OAU CHARTER WHICH PROHIBITS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEMBER

COUNTRIES, AND FOR GOOD OR ILL, ANGOLA IS NOW AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND NO ONE CAN IMPOSE A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THAT TERRITORY WITHOUT VIOLATING ITS SOVEREIGNTY.

"IN A NUTSHELL, THEREFORE, OUR POSITION ON ANGOLA IS THAT SINCE IT IS NOW A SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, THE OAU HAS NO RIGHT TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THAT COUNTRY WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF ALL ANGOLANS."

AND IN THE ABSENCE OF AN ACCEPTED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ANGOLA SHOULD BE REGARDED AS BEING REPRESENTED BY THREE POLITICAL MOVEMENTS, MPLA, FNLA AND UNITA, COL. GARBA DECLARED.

HE SAID ALL THE THREE PARTIES MUST BE A PARTY TO ANY DECISION REGARDING ANGOLA'S FUTURE FOR IT TO BE BINDING ON THE COUNTRY.
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THE COMMISSIONER DISCLOSED THAT NIGERIA WOULD SUPPORT AN OAU MEETING ON ANGOLA PROVIDED ALL THE THREE MAIN PARTIES WERE WILLING TO ATTEND.

ON THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY, COL. GARBA SAID "NO ONE APPRECIATES OR UNDERSTANDS BETTER THAN THIS GOVERNMENT DOES, THE NEEDS AND YEARNINGS OF NIGERIANS FOR DYNAMISM IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY."

HE, HOWEVER, CAUTIONED THAT FOOLHARDINESS AND JINGOISM SHOULD
NOT BE EQUATED WITH DYNAMISM. END QTE.
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